

UNION CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
Monday, July 13, 2020 - 7:00 p.m.
Leonard Almquist Council Chambers, 342 S. Main St, Union, OR 97883

This meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Roll Call: Councilor Leslie McMillan, Councilor Brian McDowell, Councilor Jay Blackburn, Mayor Leonard Flint, Councilor Susan Hawkins, Councilor John Farmer, Councilor Terra Richter, and City Administrator Doug Wiggins.

There wasn't any public comment on agenda items.
Mayor Flint added c. donation to CUP under new business.

The next item was Correspondence. CDBG Grant Award of \$220,000. CA Wiggins stated we did get this grant, for our water department. This will be the design phase, and the next phase will be construction. They will get a copy of rate study as it comes in. We should meet all of their requirements with the rate study and design and hiring a grant administrator. Our water rate is about \$18.00 under what it should be and sewer rate is way high. We are undercharging on water and over charging on sewer. You have to meet levels of funding to get the grant. We get a little adjustment in there. Councilor McDowell stated they look at the cost of ongoing maintenance and operation, and debt. There is room there, we need to be able to articulate what we base our rates on.

There wasn't any old business.

Next, under New Business was Public Comment on Charter Revisions. Dick Middleton 10th St stated I have studied the old and new Charter; you are changing words to be politically correct. In section 13 I think or should be changed to and. The only changes I remember being voted on was adding numbered seats and making all money stay in the water and sewer department. You are changing it the proper way, but there are things in here that were never voted on. I am bringing this out for the rest of the public. I hope everyone will look this over and examine it. Chapter 10 section 2, many places don't set indebtedness. CA Wiggins stated this makes it so we have to go before the voters. There will be more control over large debt from the voters.

Mayor Flint stated this is not a question and answer session, this is for comments. This has never been kept a secret. I will not argue about this.

Councilor McDowell stated these are outdated, it isn't contentious, we are trying to simplify it. We were just making the terms neutral.

Councilor Farmer asked are we looking for a motion on this. CA Wiggins answered no, we are taking public comment on this. We will pass a resolution on this.

Councilor Hawkins stated there were two updates one in 1974 and 1988 is when the public voted on changes. She explained why we changed the indebtedness.

Councilor Blackburn asked if the public will have this copy during voting. CA Wiggins and Council discussed how to make sure everyone can get a copy of the old charter and the changes.

Councilor Richter stated we could definitely post it on economic development and the city chamber and get more ways to share it.

The next item was an Easement on Wentzel owned property (Schubert Subdivision). CA Wiggins stated I need permission to negotiate easement to complete a water line. This will allow us to connect two lines and create looping, it will help with pressure in the area, we always try to loop it because dead ends cause problems. Councilor McDowell motioned to allow CA Wiggins to negotiate the easement. Councilor Blackburn second. The motion passed unanimously.

The last item on new business was the Donation to CUP for Senior Meals. Mayor Flint stated I am requesting another donation for Senior Meals. Council discussed how far the money would go. Councilor Farmer motioned to grant \$2,000 to CUP and offer use of city vehicle and time. Councilor Blackburn second. CA Wiggins stated this has been reimbursed and I will keep records to get more reimbursements. The motion passed with one recusal by Councilor Hawkins because she is on the CUP board.

The next topic was the Consent Agenda which had the minutes from June 8, 2020, Regular Council Meeting, June 8, 2020, Work Session, June 22, 2020, Work Session, June 22, 2020, Special Meeting, and the Vouchers for June. There is consent.

The next item was the Informational Items. Under the Planning Liaison Report, CA Wiggins stated we have a minor partition, on Bryan and 5th St, it will be a good addition to our city, already a full docket for August, Conditional Use Permit and Partition.

CA Wiggins stated on the Buffalo Flats Update, they are getting closer to 15% completion, within the next month. Councilor McDowell stated they have been out by Hot Lake, any word on that. CA Wiggins stated they are working on Catherine Creek.

Next, were the City Council Working Committee Updates. On Police/Fire/EMS there were no updates. On ATV, Weed, and Absent Business Owner Ordinances CA Wiggins stated we need to add those in and start working on them. The Economic Development had a written report. On the Ranger Station, CA Wiggins stated we got our building permit, we are using city staff to start the work which saves us money. When we do siding or insulation we may have to go out to bid. We will save \$50,000 by doing it ourselves. Lastly, on the Walking Path, CA Wiggins stated we are waiting on grant money, we need to negotiate an easement. The land owner is open to negotiations.

Under the next item on the agenda, City Administrator/Public Works Report, Councilor McDowell stated the City of Elgin is looking to purchase an ambulance. CA Wiggins stated we can send to state surplus or sell locally. We can put minimums on them.

The next topic was public comment. There wasn't any public comment. CA Wiggins stated ODOT started the Sidewalk project on 07/06/2020- They think they will be done by the end of next week. Then next year they will do the rest.

Councilor Blackburn stated a former student liaison is getting married on August 22nd.
Council Congratulated the student liaison.

Council announced the Upcoming Meetings and Suggestions:

Work Session – July 27, 2020 6:00pm

Work Session – August 10, 2020 at 6:00pm

Regular Council Meeting – August 10, 2020 at 7:00pm

This meeting adjourned at 7:46 p.m.

Approved: _____
Mayor, Leonard Flint

Attest: _____
City Administrator/Recorder, Doug Wiggins